TL6483-30

HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT SECOND CHAMBER NETHERLANDS

(Unauthorised translation)

Questions of PSP-member Van Es (Pacifist Socialist Party) about the four East-Timorese students who had taken refuge at the Dutch embassy in Jakarta (october 24th 1986)

1. What is the result of the consultations that you have had with your Indonesian colleague about the four East-Timorese students, who had taken refuge at the Dutch embassy in Jakarta?

2. Was their wish to leave the country with a Portuguese passport the reason why the students stayed in the embassy?

3. Is it right, that nothing has been agreed with the Indonesian authorities about this wish?

4. If so, why not?

5. What is the guarantee worth that the students after leaving the embassy will not be prosecuted? Is this a similar guarantee as the one given to the Dutch deputy in september in Santiago, Chili, declaring that the students, who had taken refuge in the Dutch embassy, would not be prosecuted?

Answers of minister Van den Broek (Foreign Affairs) (november 12th 1986)

1. During the consultations I have had with my Indonesian colleague about this case after the East-Timorese students had presented themselves at the Embassy, minister Mochtar has assured me explicitly that there was no charge whatever against them and that they were free to continue their studies at the Atma Jaya university.

2. Immediately after entering the Embassy compound, the four students requested mediation for travel to Portugal, asking for Portuguese passports.

3&4. This request is known to the Indonesian authorities.

5. I have no reason to distrust the promise that was made to me by my Indonesian colleague. The vice-rector of the Atma Jaya University told the Dutch ambassador very recently that the four students can move freely. After the return of the students to the university the embassy has had contact with them. It can be assumed that the Indonesian authorities will not thwart the students' plans in any way.

Further questions of Van Es (november 14th 1986)

1. How did the Indonesian authorities react to the wish of four East-Timorese students to leave the country with Portuguese passports?

2. Was the Portuguese government willing to accept the four students, when they were still in the Dutch embassy building?

3. If so, why didn't the Timorese students get permission to wait in the embassy building untill the Portuguese documents had arrived?

Answer of minister Van den Broek (december 9th 1986)

1-3. The Dutch government, as is known, does not disclose contents and execution of Dutch activities with regard to Portuguese interests in Indonesia, unless requested by, or with permission of the Portuguese government. Meanwhile the Portuguese authorities have informed me that they have complied with the requests for passports by the four East-Timorese students and that the Dutch Embassy in Jakarta is authorized to deliver the Portuguese passports to them. As departure from Indonesia requires permission from the Indonesian government, the Dutch ambassador in Jakarta has filed a request for that permission with the Indonesian authorities. This request is now being considered.